

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Method for cooling or quenching slabs and sheets (2) with water in a cooling basin (1, 14), into which the slabs and sheets, which have first been set upright by a tilting device (18), are lowered and temporarily maintained on edge, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein cooling water is directed against both sides of the slabs and sheets (2).

2. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the slabs and sheets (2) are fully immersed in a cooling basin (1) filled with water, and, in addition, cooling water is directed against them in the water bath of the cooling basin (1).

3. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the water level in the cooling basin (1, 14) is lowered, the slabs and sheets (2) project above the water level (13a), and cooling water is directed at the slabs and sheets (2).

4. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 3,~~ characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the cooling system is based on a physical-mathematical cooling model, which describes the nonsteady time-temperature behavior of the sheet/slab with the boundary conditions of the temperature-dependent physical characteristics and with the heat-transfer coefficient, which depends on the local surface temperature of the slab/sheet, wherein the temperature distribution over the thickness of the product to be cooled is computed by dividing the slab/sheet into individual layers and using the finite-element method and the Fourier law of heat conduction.

5. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the water pressure and/or the volume flow of the cooling water jets is automatically controlled.

6. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with ~~any of Claims 1 to 5,~~ characterized by the fact that Claim 1, wherein the distance of the jet devices (10; 11a, 11b) from the surface of the slabs and sheets (2) is automatically controlled.

7. (Currently Amended) Device for cooling or quenching slabs and sheets (2) with water in a cooling basin (1, 14), into which the slabs and sheets, which have first been set upright by a tilting device (18), are lowered and temporarily maintained on edge, especially for carrying out the method in accordance with Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the cooling basin (1) has jet devices (10; 11a, 11b), which are arranged on both sides of the lowered slabs/sheets (2), are directed towards their broadside surfaces, and are connected to a cooling water circulation (12), which has means (25a, 25b and 29) for lowering the water level from a maximum, upper water level (13b) to a low, lower water level (13a).

8. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 7, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the cooling basin (1) is connected by flow with a pump receiving basin (14).

9. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with ~~Claim 7 or Claim 8,~~ ~~characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 7, wherein the cooling basin (1) is designed with tracks (9) for a raisable and lowerable carriage (3) that holds a slab or a sheet (2).

10. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 9, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the carriage (3) is connected to a cable drive (4).

11. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with Claim 10, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the cable drive (4) has cables (7), which are guided by cable drums (5) mounted on the carriage (3), and the cable drums (5) are mechanically coupled with a frequency-controlled three-phase motor.

12. (Currently Amended) Device in accordance with ~~any of Claims 9 to 11, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 9, wherein the carriage (3) is guided on the tracks (9) by rollers or wheels (8).